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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2500

In re application of:

NELSON *et al.*

Appl. No.: 09/841,187

Filed: April 25, 2001

For: **Method and System for Improving
Focus Accuracy in a Lithography
System**

Art Unit: 2851

Examiner: Esplin, D.B.

Atty Docket: 1857.0350000

**Petition for Expungement of Information or Copy of Papers in
Application File under 37 C.F.R. § 1.59**

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Applicants are submitting the attached proprietary document entitled "Advanced Focus System Development Task, Proposal Submitted in response to Advanced Lithography SOL BAA 99-14, Silicon Valley Group, Inc., Lithography Division" (hereafter referred to as the "Proprietary Document) under MPEP § 724.02. The Proprietary Document is being submitted to ensure that Applicants meet their duty of disclosure under 37 CFR § 1.56.

Applicants request that the Examiner indicate in the next Office Action, whether the Proprietary Document *is* or *is not* found to be important to a reasonable examiner in deciding whether to allow the application to issue as a patent, as is required by MPEP § 724.04(a). If the Examiner finds that the Proprietary Document *is not* important to a

reasonable examiner in deciding whether to allow the application to issue as a patent, then Applicants ask that the Proprietary document be expunged.

Applicants have redacted specific dollar amounts and names. Applicants have also redacted specific portions of the Proprietary Document that do not relate to the patent application at issue.

The Applicants will retain a copy of the Proprietary Document for the term of any patent with regard to which the Proprietary Document is submitted.

This Petition to Expunge is submitted by the party in interest who is submitting the Proprietary Document pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.56.

If the Examiner has any questions, or believes for any reason that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned, or Donald J. Featherstone (Registration No. 33,876), at the number provided.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

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